

to not only hear directly from Sergeant Brandt about the circumstances behind the shooting but to share his thoughts with his wife present as well as his best friend.

Sergeant Brandt was supposed to survive. His most serious injury was shrapnel to the eye. He had been shot multiple times in the legs, took a shot directly to his chest, and, fortunately, the bulletproof vest saved him, but shrapnel came up into his eye. At the time I saw him, he had a patch. He was quite concerned that he would lose his eyesight and, if he lost his eyesight, he was concerned that he wouldn't be able to continue to serve in the Fairbanks Police Department—a concern he said was very troubling.

The sergeant was released from the hospital. He returned home to Fairbanks to thank Mrs. Riley and to thank the Fairbanks community for their support. Eight days after he was released from the hospital, Sergeant Brandt went to the Fairbanks City Council. He went to speak before the council. It was actually the same day that the new mayor was being sworn in, new council members were being sworn in.

Sergeant Brandt wanted to thank the community of Fairbanks. A devout and humble man, Sergeant Brandt told the council that he has seen the hand of the Lord. Yet, he noted, we have many fine officers who have done greater and better things than I have. He said: Our officers do a very hard job and they need your support. Working weekends when their friends are working nights, sleeping during the day, the time that you miss with your family.

In Sergeant Brandt's words, officers do a hard job and most of the time thankless. He said: We need your support and not just when bad things happen.

He asked the council:

Can you imagine telling your kids before you go to work that you think you are going to be shot? That's what our police officers deal with every day. I just want you to know what life is like for a police officer.

Those were the words that Sergeant Brandt shared with the Fairbanks City Council.

Later that week, Sergeant Brandt returned to Anchorage for scheduled eye surgery. He was fighting to save his eyes, again, in hopes of returning to duty. Unfortunately, Sergeant Brandt died from complications of that surgery. His assailant has been charged with murder in the first degree.

Sergeant Brandt's final public utterance—that the law enforcement family needs the support of the community and not just when an officer has been shot—these words must resonate throughout this Nation. As we reflect on a tragic year about to close, it is my sincere hope this will be our national resolve in the year to come.

Like every other law enforcement officer, Sergeant Brandt knew the risks and his family knew the risks. In spite of those risks, his wife Natasha sent

him out to work each and every day because the community needs people with Sergeant Brandt's selflessness, his courage, and his integrity.

So my thoughts today remain with Natasha Brandt and her four kids, who I hope will grow up to appreciate just how much of a hero and a role model their father was.

My thoughts also remain with Brenda Riley, who ran out of the house in her robe and slippers to come to the aid of an officer in distress, and with Phil McBroom of the North Pole Police Department, who is Allen's best friend, who stood watch with him there at the hospital and who maintained vigil and then cared for Allen's children, along with his own four kids, as well as with all of the men and women in law enforcement.

Once again, I join with my Senate colleagues in wishing Officer Salao a speedy recovery.

REMEMBERING EDWARD ITTA

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, it is following these sad and difficult comments that I continue my remarks this afternoon to pay tribute to a truly great Alaskan leader who lived a full and strong life.

Today I rise to honor the life of Edward Itta of Utqiagvik, AK, formerly known as Barrow. Mr. Itta passed away on November 6 after a very courageous battle with cancer.

It is hard for me to even share comments about Mr. Itta's life—Edward's life—because he lived a life that was so remarkably full. As I look to the comments that I have prepared, it just doesn't seem appropriate to recognize Edward, using the formality we have here in the Senate, with just words.

Edward Itta was a visionary leader in our State. In many ways, like many Alaska Natives, he lived in two worlds—the traditional world of an Inupiaq whaling captain, as well as the past president of the association and vice chairman of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. I came to know Edward through his life as a whaling captain and how he helped to translate that into this modern world because he was very much a part of the modern world of business, government, and politics.

Edward Itta is probably best known for the two terms he served as mayor of the North Slope Borough, which is where many of us in Washington, DC, our Nation's Capital, came to know of and learn about Edward Itta and his leadership. He, as mayor, created the Healthy Communities Initiative to promote community-based activities. He also created the mayor's Youth Advisory Council, recognizing the need to encourage student leadership for our Next Generations, always focused on, again, a forward vision. He was deeply involved in policy discussions over how to balance oil and gas development in the Arctic with traditional values and the impact of climate change on his communities.

He came to Congress to testify before our committees. He was viewed as the Arctic expert, if you will, one who certainly had a Ph.D. in Arctic living. He spoke at just about every Arctic conference that I have participated in, as one, again, who could speak to his life as a whaling captain, as an Inupiaq, as a leader, as a father and husband but also a very strong businessman who was committed to leading his people into a modern-day world, while at the same time retaining ties to the land, to the waters that feed and sustain them.

Our former colleague Ken Salazar, who went on to serve as Secretary of the Interior, referred to Edward Itta as a giant of Alaska who opened his eyes to the wonders of the Arctic and its people.

There is a great book that is authored by Bob Reiss, entitled "The Eskimo and the Oil Man." It tells the story of how, as Shell was first seeking to explore opportunities in the Beaufort and the Chukchi Seas—some of the resistance that this oil company met as it dealt with the Native people in trying to gain consent and support for their activities in the Arctic and how this Eskimo, this Inupiaq visionary, helped to bring together the world of the traditional subsistence lifestyle and how it could be compatible with oil exploration and development in the Arctic. It is a book that once I had completed, I didn't put away on a bookshelf to not read again. I keep it out because I continue to refer to it.

Edward was appointed in 2012 to the U.S. Arctic Research Commission by President Obama and did wonderful work within the Commission. In the business world, Mr. Itta was active in his regional corporation—the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. He served on numerous subsidiary boards as well as his village corporation, UIC. Also, before taking on the role of mayor, Mr. Itta served in numerous management roles on the North Slope Bureau, including chief administrative officer and public works director. Locally he will be remembered for his leadership in building and maintaining community infrastructure, gravel sources, sewers, roads, airports and the like which were so essential to the survival in the far north.

Edward Itta played in so many worlds and in all of them successfully. Yet he never forgot where he came from or who he was. His family, his friends—so many of us who call him friend—recognize what he provided for so many. We will remember his great sense of humor, his infectious laugh. He loved to tell stories. He would walk around the community gathering—a gathering they call Nalukataq, and Edward would walk me around to every little family in this semicircle on the beach, introducing me to everyone from the elder down to the youngest grandchild and telling stories about all in between.

He was an amazing man. He had a passionate commitment to the values

and traditions of the Inupiaq people. We will miss Edward Itta.

I had an opportunity to be there at the hospital in Barrow during the last few days Edward was on this Earth and had a chance to give a hug to his wife and to share my love and my support for a truly great Alaskan.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I understand that the majority leader is going to be coming on the floor, and I will be most happy to yield to him.

CONGRATULATING THE SENATOR FROM ALASKA

Mr. CARPER. While she is still here, I want to congratulate the Senator from Alaska and the chair of the Energy Committee on being named one of the recipients of the Jefferson-Lincoln Award this year in California and just say how proud I was to sit there in the audience and say that I know her and have the opportunity to work with her. So congratulations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, if I can just say right back to my friend that it was indeed a privilege and an honor to be recognized with the Jefferson-Lincoln Award, along with my colleague from Delaware.

Particularly at times when political heat and rhetoric can be amplified a little bit, I think it is important to recognize and know that colleagues from very different parts of the country, with different constituencies, and different political perspectives can come together, whether working on legislative agendas or just showing respect and appreciation for the good work they do. I have such respect and appreciation for my friend from Delaware. It was indeed a privilege to be recognized with him, and I thank him.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, most people are not familiar with the Jefferson-Lincoln Awards, but they are given out every year to different people, Democrats and Republicans, usually to people who are in public life. One of the recipients was Bob Mueller, a former FBI Director—and SAM FARR, who is stepping down from Congress after about 28 years there and a life of service. He succeeded Leon Panetta in Leon's House seat all those years ago.

They present these awards to people who want to get things done. That is pretty much it—people who use common sense, are collegial, work across the aisle, and just get things done. It was an honor to be there with my colleague and the Panettas as well. It was a great evening.

Mr. President, I am happy to yield the floor as soon as the majority leader comes.

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

OFFICER CODIE HUGHES AND SPECIAL AGENT
TATE JARROW

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I come to the floor maybe once a month when we are in session to talk about folks who are a part of the team at the Department of Homeland Security. There are about 225,000 of them. What I do every month is pick on a couple of them. We pick on a part of the Department of Homeland Security that maybe doesn't get a lot of attention.

Before the Presiding Officer leaves, I just want to say "Happy Thanksgiving" to him.

Tonight, if I can, in the time that I have, I will start off by—I have been doing this now for 2 years, coming to the floor and talking about people in the Department of Homeland Security who have done amazing things for all of us.

If you will recall, the Department of Homeland Security didn't even exist when I first came here in 2001. It was created on the heels of 9/11. We took about 22 disparate agencies and glommed them together. They all had something to do with Homeland Security. The Department has struggled at times to try to be a coherent, collegial, productive organization. I think they are hitting their stride, and I am proud of the work they do.

There are more than 230,000 employees in the Department of Homeland Security around the country and around the world. They do some of the most difficult and some of the most diverse work that is done in the Federal Government, anything from protecting against cyber attacks—we have plenty of that going on—to helping communities recover from natural disasters. Unfortunately, we have a lot of that going on as well with FEMA helping out—to securing our borders, our ports of entry. The Department of Homeland Security faces great challenges as it carries out its mission of protecting all of us as we go about our daily lives.

As most people know, the U.S. Secret Service is charged primarily with protecting the President and the Vice President and their families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When I was a kid growing up, I thought that was all they did. As it turns out, there is a whole lot more that they do. It is a huge challenge, especially in a Presidential year like this when you have all these people running for President—mostly in the Republican Party, but some in our party too. As all the candidates are traveling around this Nation and going hither and yon, the Secret Service is trying to keep them and their families safe and doing it on a regular basis.

This part of their job becomes a lot harder during a Presidential election. The men and women of the Secret Service worked this year thousands of hours of overtime in this campaign cycle in order to provide protection for every candidate who needed it, whether Republican or Democrat. The Secret

Service did this while continuing to perform other special protection duties, such as the massive task of securing the United Nations General Assembly.

In September, converging on New York City at the United Nations, we had leaders of over 100 different nations around the world, and the job of protecting them and keeping them safe fell largely—not entirely, but largely on the Secret Service. For many agents, this required significantly long hours and weeks at a time on the road and away from their homes, all while standing ready at a moment's notice to thrust themselves into harm's way should their duty require it.

I am enormously proud of the Secret Service in this election season. Their work to ensure our candidates' personal safety and protect them from harm also helps protect our democracy, ensuring that the American people have the final say on who will be our next President and next Vice President. The Secret Service agency is a critical part of ensuring the peaceful transition of power from one duly elected leader to the next.

For all these reasons it is urgent that the Congress do what it needs to do to ensure that the Secret Service agents who have worked so hard in recent months receive the pay that they have earned and deserve. The pay limit in current law prevents that from happening at the moment for those agents who are owed overtime compensation. I support efforts in this year's House and Senate appropriations bills to address that issue and to make our Secret Service agents whole. I'm hopeful that a fix to this problem can be included in any final spending bill that we take up during the final week of this year.

The demanding work done by the men and women of the Secret Service exemplifies the term "public servant," as they put their lives on the line every day to protect our President, Vice President, and the candidates for those offices, regardless of party or politics. Even during the busy Presidential campaign like the one we have just gone through, every division of the Secret Service, despite the added strains, continues to exceed expectations through their ongoing work.

While many of us know of the Secret Service's duty to protect the President, relatively few of us know of the important work done behind the scenes by countless others across the Secret Service, two of whom I am proud to highlight tonight.

One is called the Secret Service Uniformed Division, and they protect the White House and its grounds 24/7. They ensure that the people's house is secure for the President and their families, for their guests, staff, and visitors.

I have no idea how many people visit the White House every year, but I know it is in the hundreds of thousands, maybe more, maybe even in the millions—but a lot of people go there from all over the world and visit. One